



paragraphs [0013] – [0020] and [0026] and figures 1, 2 and 4 as relevant to claims 1, 2 and 11 of the International Application. Moreover, for the Examiner's convenience, Applicants identify U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/017352 A1, which is identified by the Annex to the Search Report as a U.S. patent family member of the above-cited European Patent Application;

(4) European Patent Application No. EP 1 083 065 A, published March 14, 2001, cited as an "X" category reference (i.e., particular relevance). The Examiner identified paragraphs [0015] – [0020] and figure 1 as relevant to claims 1 and 2 of the International Application. Moreover, for the Examiner's convenience, Applicants identify U.S. Patent No. 6,360,799 B1, which is identified by the Annex to the Search Report as a U.S. patent family member of the above-cited European Patent Application;

(5) European Patent Application No. EP 1 129 870 A, published September 5, 2001, cited as an "X" category reference (i.e., particular relevance). The Examiner identified paragraphs [0022] – [0029] and figures 1 and 2 as relevant to claims 1 and 2 of the International Application. Moreover, for the Examiner's convenience, Applicants identify U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/022210 A1, which is identified by the Annex to the Search Report as a U.S. patent family member of the above-cited European Patent Application;

(6) U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/010246 A1, published August 2, 2001, cited as an "X" category reference (i.e., particular relevance). The Examiner identified paragraphs [0030] – [0033] and figures 1 - 4 as relevant to claims 1 and 2 of the International Application; and

(7) U.S. Patent No. 3,904,463 A, published September 9, 1975, cited as an "A" category reference (i.e., general state of the art). The Examiner identified column 3, lines 21 – 52 and figures 1 and 2 as relevant to claim 1 of the International Application. Moreover, for the

Examiner's convenience, Applicants identify U.S. Patent No. 3,800,844 A, which is identified by the Annex to the Search Report as a U.S. patent family member of the above-cited U.S. Patent.

The following documents were cited in an International Preliminary Examination Report conducted in International Patent Application No. PCT/EP2004/053599, which is a counterpart of the above-captioned application. For the Examiner's convenience, a partial English-language translation of the International Preliminary Examination Report is attached, which provides the Examiner's reasons for citing these documents. In particular, the Examiner cited:

- (8) European Patent Application No. EP 1 129 870 A, cited above as item (5).

Each of the above-cited documents are listed on the enclosed completed copy of the PTO-1449 Form. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to consider these documents and to indicate such consideration by returning a signed and initialed copy of the PTO-1449 Form with the first official communication.

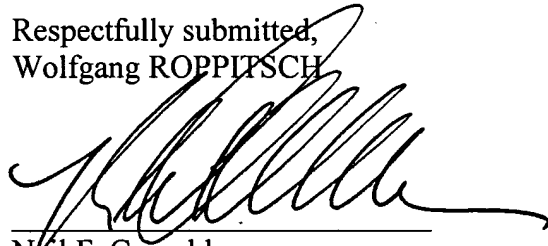
Moreover, copies of the non-U.S. patent documents are being submitted herewith. Additionally, the International Preliminary Examination Report along with a partial English-language translation of the International Preliminary Examination Report are being submitted herewith. However, pursuant to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's decision to waive the requirement under 37 C.F.R. §1.98 (a)(2)(i), copies of the cited/listed U.S. patents and U.S. published patent applications are not enclosed herewith. Moreover, a copy of the International Search Report has previously been submitted and is not being submitted herewith. However, if any copies are needed, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Applicant notes that while this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months from the filing date, Applicant has not received a first action on the merits from the

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Accordingly, consideration of the enclosed documents are required under 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b)(3).

However, if a first action on the merits has mailed prior to the filing date of this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement, Applicant hereby authorizes Commissioner to charge any fees necessary for the consideration of the documents cited herein to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Respectfully submitted,  
Wolfgang ROPPIUSCH

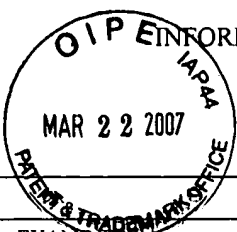


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U.S. Department of Commerce  
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10/589,984INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
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(Use several sheets if necessary)

Applicant  
Wolfgang ROPPITSCHFiling Date  
August 18, 2006Group  
1733

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
		4 8 5 2 6 2 6	08/01/89	TSUKAGOSHI			
	2002 /	0 0 1 7 3 5 2	02/14/02	OGAWA			
		6 3 6 0 7 9 9	03/26/02	IWASAKI			
	2001 /	0 0 2 2 2 1 0	09/20/01	OHURA			
	2001 /	0 0 1 0 2 4 6	08/02/01	ITOI YOHEI			
		3 9 0 4 4 6 3	09/09/75	BOILEAU et al.			

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES	NO
		3 2 3 4 8 8 9	03/22/84	GERMANY				
		1 1 7 4 2 8 9	01/23/02	E.P.O.				
		1 0 8 3 0 6 5	03/14/01	E.P.O.				
		1 1 2 9 8 7 0	09/05/01	E.P.O.				

## OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)


EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

\*EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered.  
Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.